

GEARE BLAMES SPLIT IN STEEL FOR DISASTER Says Faulty Trusses May Have Resulted From Unloading.

Continued from Page One.

for me to be at the building and examine every piece of material personally," he replied.

"If the steel was all right generally, how do you account for this splitting?" Gordon questioned.

"It might have been caused by an abrasion, which is apparent. I personally believe this piece of steel was struck with a heavy object, either by a workman in the shop or while it was being unloaded, perhaps, from the truck conveying it to the building," he explained.

District Attorney Gordon questioned Mr. Geare as to his work on the walls, the connection between the stage wall and the curved Columbia road wall having been pointed out by Col. Kelly as the basic cause of the collapse in the theory of the government engineers.

"Was the stage wall connected with the Columbia road wall?" he asked.

"I am not sure, but there are indications that the usual tie connections had been made at this point," he replied. "However, it is not necessary to tie these walls, as the stage structure is merely a partition wall. It is not necessary to tie a partition wall," Geare answered.

Rests on Stage Wall.

The steel structure plans show the stage wall connected with a truss running parallel with the stage wall, on which all also a beam from the Columbia road wall was connected, the first resting on the stage wall.

"The plans specifically call for tying of these walls," Geare was asked.

"No, but walls are usually connected without specification," he answered.

"You see that these walls were connected," Gordon asked.

"I don't remember that as supervising superintendent of construction I either ordered that the walls be tied or not be tied," Geare answered. "The plans indicated it should be tied in."

"Then it was your duty to see that they were, was it not?" queried Gordon.

After the duties called for a visit every day merely to see that the general plans were carried out and I can't see that I should have seen personally that this curved wall and the partition wall were connected," Geare answered.

After presenting his original plans to the jury and showing in detail his work on the structure, which he described as "most minute and painstaking in every detail," he turned out the signature of Thomas L. Costigan, of the building inspector's office in 1916, to the plans. Geare was questioned closely by District Attorney Gordon as to his relations with the construction of the building.

"I assumed all responsibility for the designing, saving his plans were outlined largely by his engineer, M. S. Rich," Geare declared.

"I have given confidence in Mr. Rich," he added. He was asked a tell of his connections with the theater, and testified that the original plans for the building were approved and a permit was given by the building inspector's office. This permit was received November 23, 1915, he said.

After a year's time, Mr. Geare said, Harry M. Crandall purchased plans for the building, and he was hired as architect. The plans were then enlarged and changed in some minor details, and again submitted to the building inspector and a permit received on these plans December 12, 1916. M. S. Rich, his engineer, drew the plans, he said.

Mr. Geare pointed out that dimensions were shown on the original plans. Robert Davis, of the inspector's office, testified at the first trial of the inquiry no dimensions were shown on the duplicate plans in the building inspector's office for the roof structure.

After receiving the permit, Geare said bids were asked. The contract was awarded to Frank L. Wagner. He investigated the business of Mr. Wagner and found his company to be most satisfactory, and his subcontractors of the highest order. "I was very interested in the building, and was very anxious to see it a perfect job. I felt proud that we had secured such competent workmen," Geare said.

Knew of Modifications.

Mr. Geare said he knew of the proposed modifications in the steel structure plans.

"I allowed the substitution of plans for the sake of speed—which is common practice," he said.

He said he did not remember checking over the substituted plans for the steel structure, but the plans carried the initials of his engineer and this automatically carried his own approval.

"I am not an engineer and it was not my duty to check over the modified plans personally," he testified.

Questioned closely as to his part in the construction of the building, Mr. Geare said that he was the supervising superintendent in charge of construction and visited the building daily to see if the general construction plan was being pursued.

Speaking of the construction of the building, of which twenty-one points of "inferior work" were pointed out by the board of army

DEATH NOTICES.

BAUM—On Thursday, February 9, 1922, at Alhambra Heights, Va., of pneumonia, BEAHM, O., wife of the late Dr. Richard Beahm, of New York City. She is survived by four daughters: Mrs. W. E. de Chinsky, of Fort George, Va.; Mrs. E. F. Jones, Alhambra Heights, Va.; Mrs. L. Montgomery, Fairfield, N. Y.; and Mrs. Ward Brower, New York City. Funeral services from St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 1231 Wisconsin Avenue Northwest, at 2 o'clock Friday, February 10, Interment New York City. New York papers please copy. 211

BAUM—After a lingering illness departed this life on Thursday, February 9, 1922, at 10 p. m., at her residence, 327 Randolph street northwest. MRS. C. C. BAUM, beloved wife of William R. Baum. Office of funeral director. 218

FLORISTS.

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ARCHITECT GIVES THEORY OF CRASH



The large picture shows the truss running from the Eighteenth street wall to the main truss, which buckled in the collapse of the Knickerbocker Theater roof as it lay in the ruins. Buckling of this truss at about the center point caused, according to Architect Reginald Geare, by splitting of "faulty steel" in the top chord of the truss, only part way through, was the reason for the collapse of the entire structure, he believes. The insert shows the split piece of steel. It was split about five inches of the six-inch width, it is shown. The other half of the chord, the same dimensions as this, shows buckling at the same point. The split piece of the chord was toward the stage side. Geare, who proposed this theory to the coroner's jury as the cause of the collapse, is pictured in the lower insert.

and navy engineers, Mr. Geare declared.

"The building couldn't have been constructed other than according to my plans for they were worked out in such minute detail," he said.

Contractor Not Low Bidder.

When asked if Contractor Wagner was the lowest bidder, Mr. Geare said he didn't believe Wagner was.

"Are you interested in any way with the Wagner firm?" District Attorney Gordon asked Geare.

"No," he answered. He said that ample bearing was allowed for the beams and trusses in the plans, but that he was not certain if the beams and trusses had been placed in position in all places as called for. He said it was the duty of the steel engineer to supervise this work. Mr. Rich was the engineer," he said.

"I had such a good builder, subcontractor and engineers working on the theater that I felt absolutely confident of all details," he said.

Asked if he had built any other theaters in the District, Mr. Geare testified that he was the architect for the Metropolitan Theater, Tenth and E streets northwest, and the "Our work ceased when the steel was delivered on the grounds. We had nothing to do with the placing of the steel members in place or in providing plasters, built up brick supports around joints in the wall where beams and trusses rested," Ford declared. "This was the duty of the architect, he said.

"My investigation of the ruins did not reveal that any steel member had failed in any part," Ford declared.

Trouble Where Walls Met.

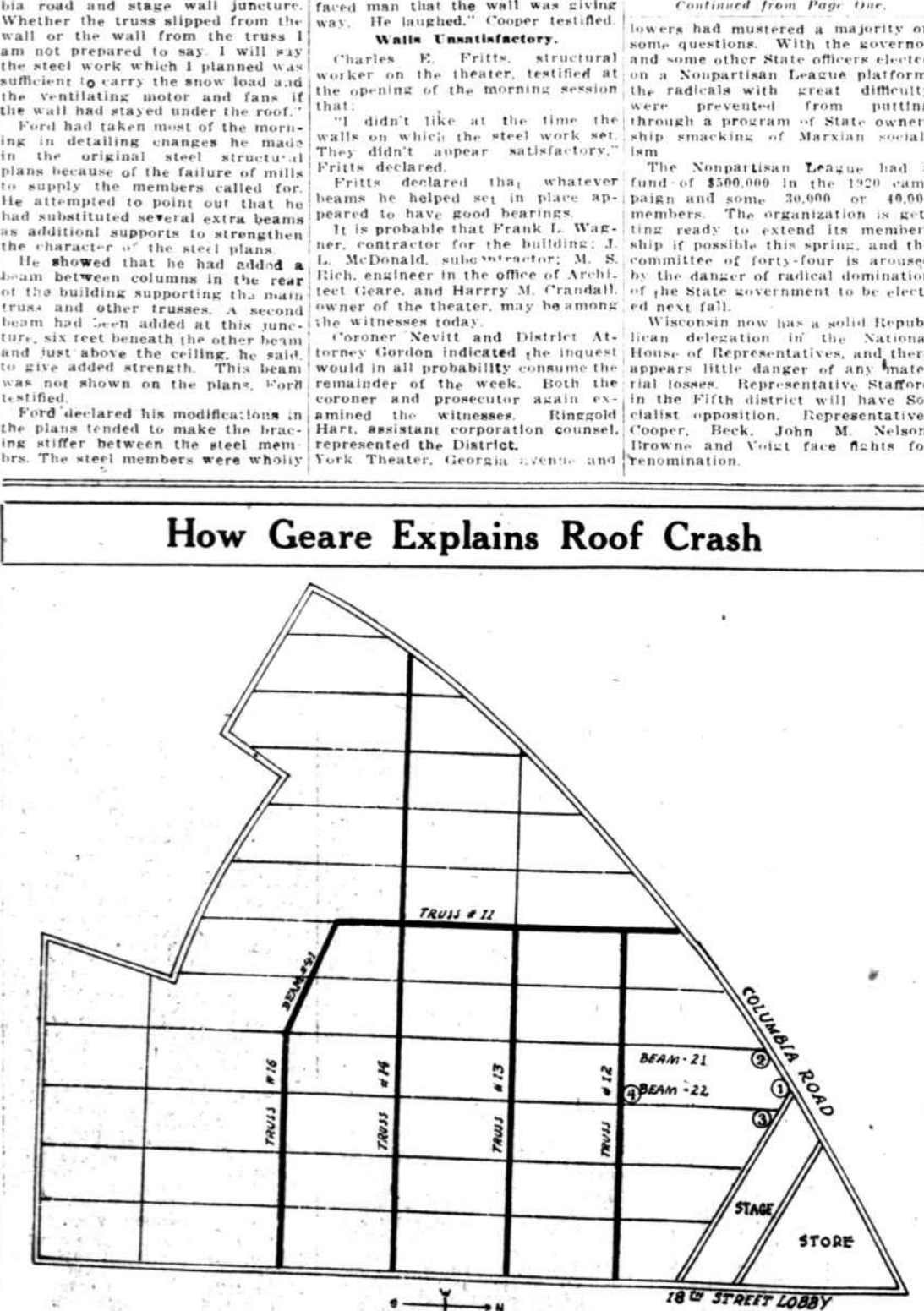
"I agree entirely with Col. Kelly and the government engineers, that the roof began to fall at the Columbia road and stage wall juncture. Whether the truss slipped from the wall or the wall from the truss, I am not prepared to say. I will say the steel work which I planned was sufficient to carry the snow load and the ventilating motor and fans if the wall had stayed under the roof."

Ford had taken most of the morning in detailing changes he made in the original steel structural plans because of the failure of mills to supply the members called for. He attempted to point out that he had substituted several extra beams as additional supports to strengthen the character of the steel plans.

He showed that he had added a beam between columns in the rear of the building supporting the main truss and other trusses. A second beam had been added at this juncture, six feet beneath the other beam and just above the ceiling. This beam was not shown on the plans, Ford testified.

Ford declared his modifications in the plans tended to make the bracing stiffer between the steel members. The steel members were wholly

How Geare Explains Roof Crash



This diagram of the roof plans for the Knickerbocker Theater shows steel members mentioned in the testimony of Reginald Geare, architect, explaining his theory of the collapse of the roof. At the point marked 4, Geare says the half of the top chord of truss T-12, toward the stage, split, causing the truss T-12 to buckle toward the stage and downward. Beam B-22 connects with the truss at this juncture. In the report of the government engineers it was declared B-21 was dragged from its place by contraction of the Columbia road wall at point marked 2. This setting dragged B-22 from its place at the point marked 3, causing a buckling of truss T-12 at the point marked 4. Considerable evidence, including twenty-one evidences of "inferior work" in the structure, were presented by the government engineers.

PROBE WELCOME, ASSERT CHEMICAL AND DYE LEADERS

Ready to Show Their Records to Senate Committee.

The forthcoming investigation of the dye and chemical industry of this country and of the importers of German dyes by a Senate committee is looked upon with "gratification" by the American chemical industry. Dr. Charles H. Hertig, president of the Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturers' Association of the United States, declared in a letter to Senator Shortridge, chairman of the investigating committee.

In his letter which was made public last night, Dr. Hertig declared his association felt that chiefly through such an impartial and official investigation will the "truth about the fight of the American industry be fully brought to light. Any information which the committee may desire will be submitted upon request of the committee," he said.

Letters welcoming the investigation have also been received by the committee from R. C. Jeffcott, president of the American Dyes Institute; Francis J. Garvan, president of the Chemical Foundation; and E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, of Wilmington, Del., one of the larger American dye companies.

Any records of these organizations and all officers, which the committee may desire to hear, they declared, will be produced at any time they are wanted without making any necessary resort to legal steps.

Beginning of the investigation has been fixed tentatively by the investigating committee, of which Senator Shortridge, of California, Republican, is chairman, for next Tuesday.

\$10,000,000 VOTED TO PAY CONGRESS

House Passes 1923 Appropriation Bill Which Includes Big Printery.

The bill making appropriations for the operating expenses of Congress for the year ending June 30, 1923, was passed yesterday by the House.

Approximately \$10,000,000 was appropriated for salaries and expenses. This amount includes the expenses incident to the operation of the Botanic Garden, the Library of Congress and the Government Printing Office.

For the compensation of Senators \$20,000 was provided with an additional \$51,000 for mileage.

For members of the House \$2,304,500 was for salaries and \$175,000 for mileage.

There was little debate on the bill which was passed early in the afternoon.

AGAIN ACQUITTED IN FORGERY CASE

George V. Brennenman, formerly employed as a jewelry salesman for a local concern, was indicted in charges of forgery and uttering, was acquitted yesterday by a jury in Criminal Court No. 1, Chief Justice McCoy presiding.

The indictment charged that Brennenman after making a collection on a ring, altered his employer's book and put \$7 not belonging to him in his pocket. The accused claimed that he took no such ring and contended that due to a mistake in the entries on the book he was suspected and arrested. Some time ago Brennenman was tried for the same offense in Police Court and acquitted, but the grand jury ignored this fact.

Woodbury Again Head of Steamboat Company

Levi Woodbury was re-elected president of the Norfolk and Washington Steamboat Company at yesterday's meeting of the board of directors. Woodbury recently passed his eighty-eighth birthday.

Other officers elected were Clarence F. Norment, first vice president; D. J. Callahan, second vice president and general manager; and Odell S. Smith, secretary and treasurer. Besides the above named officers, the following also were elected directors: Milton E. Allen, Charles J. Bell, Clarence F. Norment, Jr., William E. Pearson and Hylas T. Wheeler.

Orloles Beat Hilltops.

Although greatly outwitted, Oriole A. C. defeated the Hilltop A. C. in a fast game at the Epiphany Center gym, the score being 39-12.

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EXPERTS DISPUTE ARCHITECT AS TO THEATER CRASH

Continued from Page One.

Truss buckled toward the stage. This would cause the half of the steel chord of the truss which split to strike the floor below first, which the pictures show happened. It was not developed at the inquest yesterday whether the split in the steel chord might have been caused by striking after falling, resulting in the abrasion apparent at both sides of the split.

Agree on One Point.

Col. Kelly's evidence agreed with Geare's theory that buckling of the top truss from its position, described by Col. Kelly as seated on an "insecure wall bearing which was an askew."

Col. Kelly, however, in minute detail explains from a survey of present conditions and plans what caused the buckling of the truss chord—slipping from the walls of beams B-21 and B-22, running from the truss to the Columbia road wall and stage wall, respectively.

Geare declared the buckling was caused by a partial split of one-half of the double stripped steel chord. Explaining the slipping of beam B-21 from place, Col. Kelly said:

Weakened by Expansion.

"Considering the bearing of steel beam B-21, this beam entered the wall at an angle of 50 degrees, and the original bearing which this beam had was probably decreased as a result of the expansion, contraction and contractions of roof slabs and structure, resulting from changes in temperature. The high and unsupported Columbia road wall was the only wall not stiffened by intermediate floors. When the roof would expand at times of rising temperature the wall would tend to move the top of this wall out and the greatest movement probably occurring near the junction of the Columbia road wall to the stage wall."

"Successive expansions and contractions of the roof and structure extending over a period of five years undoubtedly resulted in some outward set of the top of the Columbia road wall, and this decreased the wall bearing of beam B-21 just previous to the crash the beam probably rested with only one corner of the flange bearing on the wall plate below the wall plate. It is a lighter colored and probably softer tile than was used elsewhere in the wall construction."

Col. Kelly testified at length as to various other conditions which might have contributed to the collapse of the roof on this basis.

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14 Spring Dresses, \$12.50 Values to \$29.75

10 Fall Coats, \$29.75 Values to \$69.50

9 Sport Coats, \$13.75 Values to \$29.75

2 Fur Coats, \$55.00 Values to \$145.00

4 Genuine Leather Coats, \$18.50 Values to \$45.00

12 Coats, Odds and Ends, \$5.00 Values to \$25.00

3 Plush Coats, \$18.50 Values to \$55.00

14 New Tweed Suits, \$10.00 Values to \$19.75

12 Fall Suits, \$9.50 Values to \$35.00

10 Plain and Fur Trimmed Suits, \$17.95 Values to \$55.00

27 Silk and Wool Sport Skirts \$2.95 Values to \$10.00

22 Pleated Wool Skirts, \$4.95 Values to \$12.50

24 Jersey Silk Petticoats, \$2.89 Values to \$4.98

53 Waists, 59c Values to \$1.49

31 Batiste Nightgowns, 79c Values to \$1.98

27 Fine Waists, \$1.00 Values to \$2.98

"Just for Friday" a Great Sale

PEKIN ENVOY LIKES LIFE IN SING SING

OSSINING, N. Y., Feb. 9.—American prison life will be taken back to China by Franklin Chiu, a member of the Chinese delegation to the arms conference at Washington.

After going through all the processes of a prisoner, being transferred from the Tombs prison, New York, to Sing Sing prison here, Chiu said: "Sing Sing is the best prison I've seen and I have visited many. No, Sing Sing isn't a Chinese name." He took a look at the electric chair after visiting the factories, prison hospital, cell block and office.

W. E. McInturf's Funeral To Be This Morning

STRASBURG, Va., Feb. 9.—William Erasmus McInturf, aged 49, a well-known business man, died at Winchester Memorial Hospital Tuesday evening after an illness of two years. He was a son of the late John L. and Mary Boyer McInturf, of Tombs Brook. In 1915 he married Miss Irma True Crabill, who, with three children, survives. The funeral will be held tomorrow morning at 10:30 at the Christian church, the Rev. D. H. Rhodes, of Tombs Brook, officiating, and interment will be in Massanutten Cemetery, Woodstock.

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